

- Recovery Act Project will Create Jobs, Reduce Property Tax Burden, Clean Lake -

Peach Lake, NY – U.S. Rep John Hall (D-Dover) today presented checks worth almost \$7 million in Federal Recovery Act and other Federal Funds to the Towns of Southeast and North Salem for the environmental restoration of Peach Lake. At the Vail's Grove Pavilion on the shore of Peach Lake, Congressman Hall presented North Salem Supervisor Warren Lucas with a check for \$5 million and Southeast Supervisor Michael Rights with a check for \$1.9 million. Both checks represent the combination of grant money directly from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and additional Federal funding secured for the project. Hall was joined by the Peach Lake Coalition, the town supervisors and local officials for the official groundbreaking of the project.

The lake restoration will create jobs and correct a longstanding issue of failing septic systems along the shores of Peach Lake, which is part of the New York City water supply. The money will support the design and construction of the collection system, pump station, and treatment plant that will improve the water quality of Peach Lake, eliminate health risks and stop the lake's degradation.

"With a new sewer system and water treatment plant, the residents of the Peach Lake community will thankfully no longer have to worry about having safe and clean water," said Congressman Hall. "Funding clean water infrastructure is a smart investment that will help protect public health and create long term value for years to come. This project will create local jobs and reduce the burden on local property taxpayers."

New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation Acting President Matthew Millea said: "The Towns have waited many years to undertake this important project that will greatly improve the quality of Peach Lake. Thanks to Governor Paterson and the New York Congressional Delegation, in particular Congressman Hall for their support and efforts to ensure that the federal stimulus program reaches communities in need of assistance to make their water quality projects a reality."

Located in the Town of Southeast, Putnam County, and the Town of North Salem, Westchester County, Peach Lake is part of the Croton Watershed, which contributes to a system of reservoirs that provide New York City with drinking water. The water quality of the lake has been steadily declining since the 1960's due to failing septic systems, causing sewage to be discharged directly to the lake. In order to deter further pollution, federal funding that Congressman Hall helped provide will allow the towns to construct a new wastewater treatment plant and collection system. The new sewer network will serve approximately 450 homes and have an average design flow of 170,000 gallons per day.

"When I cast my vote earlier this year for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, this is exactly the kind of investment that I knew we needed in the Hudson Valley," Rep. Hall added. "Creating jobs, upgrading our infrastructure, improving health and safety, reducing the burden on local property taxpayers, and protecting our environment: this is what I voted for. And this, I am proud to say, is what we have brought to the towns of Southeast and North Salem."

Amy Rosmarin, Peach Lake Sewer District Town Board Liaison said earlier, "We are thrilled that we could get this grant and thereby reduce the per household annual fee. We can't thank Congressman Hall enough for his help in procuring these funds."

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